



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.7946 | FAX (517) 373.2678
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/

For Immediate Release
March 17, 2004

Contact: Chad Wing
(517) 373-7946

Sen. Stamas announces funding for community emergency response training

Lansing — State Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, today announced a grant of \$10,600 was awarded to Otsego County Citizen Corps to train residents so they will be prepared to respond to local emergencies and disasters. The Michigan State Police and the Michigan Community Service Commission awarded the grants.

“Training local emergency personnel and community members will make Otsego County a safer place to live,” Stamas said. “This grant will help make sure Otsego County is prepared for an emergency situation.”

Community Emergency Response Training programs initially train first responders (fire, police, and emergency management professionals) who in turn train community members. CERT provides training in basic lifesaving, light rescue, light fire fighting, triage, and basic first aid skills.

Funding from these grants also is used to support local Citizen Corps Councils, which involve community leaders in providing direction on issues relating to homeland security. These councils, which include volunteer organizations, community leaders, first responders, and others, also help prepare communities to handle disasters and crisis situations.

“Citizen Corps Councils play a critical role in local homeland security efforts,” said Gary Zulinski, Michigan Citizen Corps program coordinator. “When local leaders involve community members in solving the challenges relating to disasters, they expand opportunities for volunteers to engage in emergency preparation, prevention, and response.”

The MCSC builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. In 2004, the MCSC is granting \$3.9 million in federal funds and \$280,100 in state funds to local communities to support volunteer programs and activities.

For more information about the Michigan Community Service Commission visit www.michigan.gov/mcsc or call (517) 335-4295.

For more information about the Citizen Corps programs in Otsego County, contact Tami Phillips at (989) 732-6232.

###